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March 26, 2015

Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

We are writing to express our strong support for legislation to clarify existing State law which explicitly requires priority enrollment in State subsidized child care and development services for abused and neglected children who are receiving Child Protective Services (CPS) or who are at risk of being abused and neglected.

Unfortunately, due to vague and confusing policies, the vast majority of children under CPS supervision are not receiving priority enrollment in child care and development services even though it is required under current law. This is because certain sections of the California Education Code have been interpreted to exclude children from priority enrollment when they are removed from their parents and placed into foster care, including those formally placed with relatives. Paradoxically, children under child welfare jurisdiction oftentimes lose their eligibility and priority for subsidized child care when they are formally placed into foster care despite significant and unmitigated risk factors.

Access to child care for parents and caregivers of children in foster care is of critical importance to Los Angeles County. Children under CPS supervision who are between 0 to 5 years of age should be prioritized for access to Early Childhood Education learning programs to help stabilize families and build a solid foundation for a child's future. Young adults with a history of maltreatment are more likely to experience poverty, unemployment, and be investigated for abuse or neglect of their own children. To ensure self-sufficiency, young parents of these children should be prioritized for State subsidized early education services.

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We respectfully urge your support of legislation to clarify existing law for State subsidized child development services to explicitly include foster children and children with parents who are under Child Protective Services supervision.

Your consideration of this important issue is greatly appreciated.


Sincerely,



MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Mayor of the Board



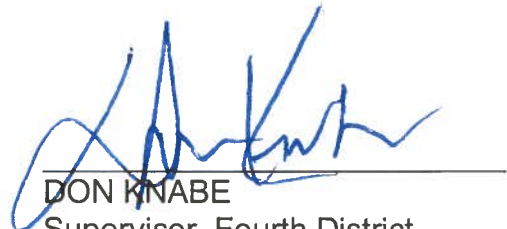
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c: The Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation